

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 HA-05 FDRE-00 CPR-02
NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 AGRE-00 SSC-01
/076 W

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R 071101Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4389
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 1089

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, EAID, GV, US, UR
SUBJECT: OUTWARD AND VISIBLE SIGNS OF GUINEAN SELF-INTEREST

REF: CONAKRY 1026

1. SUMMARY: DURING SECOND HALF OF MAY, PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE WENT TO SOME LENGTHS TO EXPRESS PUBLIC AND SPECIFIC THANKS TO US AND OTHER DONORS, CHIEFLY WESTERN, FOR THEIR EMERGENCY DROUGHT ASSISTANCE. THIS REPRESENTED DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS PRACTICE, AND RESULTANT EFFECT, CLEARLY INTENTIONAL, HAS BEEN TO UNDERSCORE THE SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER HELP EXTENDED GUINEA BY WEST THAN BY SOVIETS AND OTHER COMMUNIST STATES. ONE MIGHT SPECULATE THAT HANDLING OF THIS HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO JUSTIFY CLOSER ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION WITH WEST AS WELL AS TO GOAD COMMUNIST STATES INTO MORE FORTHCOMING PERFORMANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MAY 22 SPEECH SUMMING UP AGRICULTURAL SITUATION
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AND RATING GUINEA'S 34 ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE, PRESIDENT TOURE LISTED ALL FOREIGN DONORS THAT HAD RESPONDED TO GOG APPEAL FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN WAKE OF 1977 HARVEST SHORTFALLS. DONORS WERE LISTED IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE OF CONTRIBUTION, EXPRESSED IN GUINEAN SYLI EQUIVALENT. THE LISTING WAS AS FOLLOWS:

USA	124,200,000 GS
EEC	108,160,000 GS
DENMARK	41,400,000 GS
SWEDEN	33,810,000 GS
UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAM	33,300,000 GS
CANADA	22,000,000 GS
UK	19,500,000 GS
FRG	13,800,000 GS
TOGO	12,500,000 GS
PORTUGAL	7,760,000 GS
USSR	7,170,000 GS
PRC	6,900,000 GS
FRANCE	6,767,000 GS
HUNGARY	4,600,000 GS
SWITZERLAND	700,000 GS

THE PRESIDENT PUT FOOD TOTALS AT 55,000 METRIC TONS OF COMBINED RICE, CORN, SORGHUM, POTATOES, FLOUR AND MILK AND 1,500 TONS OF SEED (MOST LIKELY ALL RICE SEED). HE ALSO SINGLED OUT AND THANKED SAUDI ARABIA AND LIBYA FOR FINANCIAL AID OF \$15.5 MILLION AND \$60 MILLION, RESPECTIVELY, FORMER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CONAKRY MOSQUE AND LATTER PRINCIPALLY FOR EVENTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF KONKOURE DAM.

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3. IMPACT OF ABOVE FIGURES WAS SUBSTANTIAL AND SIGNIFICANT, PLACING ON PUBLIC RECORD THAT US HAD BEEN LARGEST FOOD AID DONOR, WITH 28 PERCENT OF TOTAL, AND THAT ALL TOGETHER WESTERN COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAD CONTRIBUTED 96 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL, LEAVING USSR, PRC AND HUNGARY WITH A PIDDLING 4 PERCENT. IMPLICATIONS OF THIS IN TERMS OF "WHO OUR REAL FRIENDS ARE" WERE LOUD AND CLEAR, AND FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD CHOSEN TO MAKE THESE FIGURES PUBLIC WAS EQUALLY INDICATIVE. THREE GOG OFFICIALS, ONE FROM LABE IN INTERIOR, SAY THAT SPEECH AND AID DATA WERE CIRCULATED TO ALL VILLAGE PRL'S IN THE COUNTRY FOR THEIR INFORMATION.

4. WE ARE TOLD THAT SOVIETS WERE FURIOUS AND ASKED HARD-LINING MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL MAMADI KEITA TO ARRANGE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND THE AID FIGURES NOT BE PUBLISHED IN THE PARTY'S WEEKLY ORGAN, HOROYA, WHICH KEITA SUPERVISES. ACCORDING TO REPORT, KEITA DID ARRANGE SUPPRESSION OF PUBLICATION, BUT SEKOU TOURE LEARNED OF IT, WAS ANGERED, AND COUNTERMANDED THE ORDER. HOWEVER, LIST AS FINALLY PRINTED IN HOROYA (MO. 2324, MAY 28-JUNE 3) CHANGED SOVIETS FROM ELEVENTH TO EIGHTH PLACE, EXACTLY

DOUBLING ALLEGED CONTRIBUTION TO 14,340,000 SYLIS, IN APPARENT CONCESSION TO SOVIET IRE. USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT SOVIET EMBASSY, AFTER COMPLAINING TO PRIME MINISTER, GOT DEFENSE MINISTER ALAFE KOUROUMA TO TAKE THEIR SIDE IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION, ARGUING THAT PRESIDENT'S SPEECH DID NOT PRESENT VALID PICTURE SINCE IT LEFT OUT ALL OTHER KINDS OF SOVIET "AID", E.G., MILITARY AND EDUCATIONAL SECTORS. SOURCE, WHO CLAIMS HE WAS PRESENT, ALLEGES THAT PRESIDENT TOURE IN EFFECT DISMISSED KOUROUMA'S ARGUMENT, EXPLAINED THAT LIST WAS FAIR MEANS OF PUBLICIZING ACTUAL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC APPEAL, AND IF SOVIETS HAD COMPLAINT THEY SHOULD SEE HIM. TOURE ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT AMERICANS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT MAJOR FOOD AID CONTRIBUTORS AND GUINEA HAS TO GIVE THEM CREDIT. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. ACCORDING TO SAME GOG OFFICIAL, THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONCERN AMONG POLITBUREAU MEMBERS PRIMIN BEAVOGUI, MOUSSA DIAKITE, AND ISMAEL TOURE THAT PRESIDENT TOURE'S SPEECHES IN LAGOS AND COTONOU RECENTLY, WHILE ENTIRELY ESCHEWING PRE-MONROVIA SUMMIT TIRADES AGAINST "PUPPETISM", STILL MAY HAVE BEEN TOO "ANTI-IMPERIALIST". PRESIDENT'S STUB-BORN, RHETORICAL REFLEXES MAY OCCASIONALLY REVIVE DESPITE THIS REPORTED COUNSEL: WHEN CONCERN THAT WESTERN DONORS MIGHT TAKE OFFENSE WAS CONVEYED TO TOURE, HE REPORTEDLY RESPONDED IN REBUFF THAT "IMPERIALISM" MAY OCCUR IN ANY COUNTRY, SOCIALIST OR NON-SOCIALIST, EVEN AMONG AFRICANS, AND WHETHER SOVIETS, U.S., FRANCE OR OTHERS WERE BOTHERED ABOUT HIS "ANTI-IMPERIALISM" DEPENDED ON HOW THEY VIEWED THEIR OWN ACTIONS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CONAKRY 1089

6. AT MAY 24 MEETING WITH DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT WHICH ACTING DEAN OF CORPS (GDR AMBASSADOR ELEONORA SCHMID) DELIVERED SPEECH OF CONGRATULATIONS ON 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF GUINEAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDG), PRESIDENT TOURE RESPONDED WITH NOTABLY LESS DOGMATIC AND MORE MODERATE, PRAGMATIC REMARKS. IN LOW-KEY BUT INTENSE PRESENTATION, HE EXPRESSED DEEP AND SINCERE THANKS FOR HELP PROVIDED BY FOREIGN DONORS, EMPHASIZED NEED FOR MORAL LEADERSHIP, HARMONY AND HONESTY IN GOVERNMENT, AND CITED IMPORTANCE OF UPCOMING PARTY CONGRESS AND POLICY SEMINAR TO PRECEDE IT AS HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY FOR "POPULAR EXPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE". HE SAID GUINEA IS READY TO ACCEPT IDEAS AND METHODS FROM WHATEVER SOURCE AS LONG AS THEY OFFER PRACTICAL WAYS TO MEET NEEDS OF GUINEAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS. HE SAID WITH APPARENT SINCERITY THAT HE WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FROM THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AS TO HOW GUINEA CAN BEST PURSUE ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

7. ON SAME DAY, A SPOKESMAN FOR SECRETARIAT OF STATE
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COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATION WITH THE AMERICAS CALLED AMBASSADOR CROSBY TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION AND GRATITUDE OF STATE COMMITTEE THAT US HAD BEEN FIRST AMONG DROUGHT AID DONORS. ON MAY 26 THE AMBASSADOR WAS GIVEN A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TOURE TO PRESIDENT CARTER, WARMLY THANKING THE US FOR THE FOOD AID SO GENEROUSLY EXTENDED (REFTEL). LETTERS OF THANKS ALSO WENT OUT TO OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES AT THAT TIME.

8. ON MAY 28 THE AMBASSADOR AND NINE OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION WERE INVITED TO ACCOMPANY SEKOU TOURE ON A TRIP BY PLANE AND HELICOPTER TO GUECKEDOU FOR CEREMONIES MARKING THAT REGION'S WINNING OF THE 1977 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION COMPETITION. AS IS USUAL ON SUCH OCCASIONS, FONMIN FILY CISSOKO OVER THE PAY SYSTEM INTRODUCED VARIOUS FOREIGN DIPLOMATS PRESENT. PUBLIC RESPONSE TO INTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WAS MARKEDLY LOUDER AND MORE ENTHUSIASTIC THAN FOR THE OTHER DIPLOMATS PRESENT,

A FACT SEVERAL OF THEM REMARKED ON AND WHICH VERY PROBABLY REFLECTED PRESIDENT'S EARLIER PUBLICATION OF US POSITION AT HEAD OF DROUGHT DONOR LIST.

9. COMPOSITION OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION ON THIS AND TWO OTHER RECENT PRESIDENTIAL TRIPS TO THE PROVINCES, WHICH EACH TIME OMITTED SOVIETS, HAS GIVEN RISE TO HEARTBURN IN SOME DIPLOMATIC QUARTERS AND TO CRY OF FAVORITISM. CUBAN, FRENCH, INDIAN, LIBERIAN AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT ON ALL THREE TRIPS: MAY 15 (TO KANKAN AND LABE), MAY 16 (KINDIA), AND MAY 28 TO GUECKEDOU. EAST GERMAN, CONGOLESE, BISSAU AND (NON-RESIDENT) CAPE VERDE AMBASSADORS AND THE SAUDI CHARGE WENT ON TWO OF TRIPS, AND NEW IVORY COAST AND NON-RESIDENT IRAQI AMBASSADORS AND THE HUNGARIAN
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CHARGE WENT ON ONE -- THIRD TRIP. WEST GERMAN CHARGE AND EEC REPRESENTATIVE WERE ALSO INVITED ON THIRD TRIP BUT DID NOT MAKE IT.

10. COMMENT: SEVERAL GOG SOURCES CONFIRM THAT PRESIDENT TOURE EXPRESSLY BROADCAST RELATIVE STANDING OF DONOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS SO AS TO INFORM GUINEAN POPULATION OF COMPARATIVE IMPORTANCE OF US AND WESTERN CONTRIBUTION, ON ONE HAND, AND SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST STATES ON OTHER. THIS IS FIRST TIME IN RECENT MEMORY THAT SPECIFIC MONETARY VALUES OF FOREIGN AID HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. ACTION WAS PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO EXPRESS GOG DISSATISFACTION WITH COMMUNIST RESPONSE AND TO GOAD THOSE STATES INTO MORE FORTHCOMING PERFORMANCE IN FUTURE. AT SAME TIME, IT SERVED TO ELEVATE PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF WESTERN ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION IN GUINEA, A FACT WHICH SEKOU TOURE, DESPITE SOVIET PRESSURES, MAY FIND SUPPORTIVE OF GRADUAL GOG TENDENCIES TOWARD MORE MODERATE, PRAGMATIC, NON-ALIGNED POSITION. END COMMENT.
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